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S-E-C-R-E-T

REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The majority of the newly constructed vessels of the Soviet bloc are steamships which, by virtue of their special structure and the layout of engineering installations and distribution of technical equipment, can easily be converted to auxiliary cruisers. Many of these vessels can be converted from coal-burning to oil-burning; and, when converted, are capable of traveling long distances and of making speeds up to 15, and in some cases even 20, knots. The holds of the new ships are capacious and can transport such cargo as coal, oil drums, and war materiel.

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2. The ships are ritted with modern radio and radar equipment. According to crew members of the ZANZGUR, the ship's old prewar radio equipment has been removed and has been replaced by modern gear; and modern radio equipment is being installed on vessels at Leningrad and in East Germany. Surface search radar on the new vessels has considerable range. The ZANZGUR is equipped with radar having four scales: 1,500 meters, 5,000 meters, 20,000 meters, and 30,000 meters. The radar on the ZANZGUR is situated near the charthouse. There is a repeater on the navigation bridge near the gyrocompass and other navigational instruments.

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3. The fathometer, with which all the vessels are equipped, has two scales, one for depths up to 100 meters and one for depths up to 1,500 meters.

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4. Shipboard installations have been laid out to facilitate the rapid installation of automatic and heavy weapons and of other equipment to be used for offensive and defensive purposes.

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